

## CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

**Question 1** - The table in part 5 provides an overview of the proposals under each of the EU 2020 headings – Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive – matched against the relevant thematic objective and investment priorities. Do you think the investment priorities are the most appropriate ones for the activity suggested?

We, Lothians & Fife Green Network Partnership (LFGNP) support the following proposals set out in the table, as each will help towards the delivery of the Central Scotland Green Network, which is a National Development in the second National Planning Framework (NPF2). LFGNP promotes and supports the delivery of this in eastern Central Scotland.

Proposal 7 – As well as active travel hubs, we believe it would be useful to have funding for active travel planning and to support engagement with businesses, schools and communities to embed awareness and behaviour change to move users from cars etc to walking and cycling. This is likely to require a sustained communications and engagement campaign over the life of the funding programme.

Proposal 10 – The Central Scotland Green Network is already and could continue to provide a setting for significant numbers of employability schemes. There is scope with the local authorities in the area covered by LFGNP to facilitate these types of initiatives.

Proposal 12 – The consultative text for the third National Planning Framework (NPF3) highlights the need to address vacant and derelict land (VDL) within the Central Scotland Green Network area. Funding is currently seen as one of the main barriers to addressing progress so funding through this programme would be most welcome. LFGNP is in the process of evaluating the potential for using VDL across the region for green networks development and enhancement for a range of benefits.

Proposal 13 – Funding to deliver Green Infrastructure is critical to the delivery of the Central Scotland Green Network and the work of LFGNP. We would work with the lead organisation, SNH, and local delivery bodies such as Edinburgh and the Lothians Greenspace Trust and Fife Coast and countryside Trust to implement projects under this funding stream.

**Question 2** – Section 6 sets out the linkages between Structural, Rural and Fisheries Funds as well as linkages to other EU Funding Programmes. We would welcome stakeholder comments on these linkages in order to help us develop this thinking further

It seems sensible to maintain synergies between the funding streams.

**Question 3** - Do you think the new proposals will have a positive or negative impact on the protected characteristics and wider issues of inclusion and participation?

Active travel, land remediation and employment and training proposals have the potential to be targeted to areas of greatest need in terms of addressing inclusion and participation. In particular we are concerned to improve areas of greatest need through targeting areas of social and environmental deprivation through benefits provided by green infrastructure and green networks.

**Question 4** - If you think there will be a negative impact on the protected characteristics or inclusion and participation please provide suggestions as to what could be done differently to diminish this impact.

See Q3.

**Question 5** - Please provide your views for improving the process for design, procurement, delivery, monitoring and evaluation to strengthen delivery of sustainable development.

It is important that the requirements for reporting and claiming are known up front. Difficulties arise when the requirements for records or baseline reporting change after the start of the programme as the new information may not have been gathered at the outset.

Officer time and availability to deal with queries, including on site visits, would be welcomed enabling better applications to be submitted.

A GIS database should be used to collect data for the on-the ground outputs, for example hectares of land remediated to woodland. This should be available to allow initiatives like the Central Scotland Green Network to be able to monitor physical change over time. This would improve the overall reporting of this National Development and aid with future resource prioritisation to continuing areas of greatest need

**Question 6** – Do you have any further comments on the proposals outlined in this this document?

No.